

Alumnus opens business,
attracts gamers
of all ages
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thursday, 09.08.16

the ALESTLE

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season off on
right foot
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Cougar Spotlight: Sierra Ewing becomes voice of black minority on campus

KIAH EARL
Alestle Reporter

Editor's note:

The "Cougar Spotlight" is a monthly feature highlighting SIUE students who are actively making a difference in the lives of others on campus. Students, faculty and staff can nominate individuals for the spotlight by contacting news@alestlelive.com. Nominations will be reviewed, and an individual will be selected at the editor's discretion.

Originally from Mississippi, senior psychology major Sierra Ewing has found a home away from home within the campus of SIUE. Ewing was raised in Champaign and said SIUE was the only college she applied to after high school.

"SIUE was close to home, but far enough away," Ewing said. "I loved the environment when I visited. Everyone was so happy and I hadn't gotten that vibe on any other campus I went to."

Ewing recently met with Curt Lox, Dean of the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior, to talk about her ideas and goals for the upcoming year as well as how she plans to use her new position as student senator within Student Government to make the campus a better place. Ewing presented her ideas about a mentorship program that she says will pair freshman and transfer students of a minority with an upperclassman of the same minority or the same major to aid them in their adjustment to SIUE and college in general.

"What I see, as a black female, is that a lot of students in low income areas aren't prepared for college due to lack of funding and lack of other resources," Ewing said. "Through my mentorship program, the goal is to match the incoming student with another student, either of the same minority or same major, to help them around campus, and to emphasize the importance of being involved."

Ewing said she hopes that through her program, students will have the ability to get "plugged in" and exceed their own personal goals both in and out of the classroom.

"I want to make sure that the different schools on campus are reaching out to students and not assuming that just because the student is in college that they know how to thrive in the classroom," Ewing said.

The mentorship program is currently in the foundational stages and Ewing says she looks forward to hopefully getting the program laid out in its entirety before her graduation in May of 2017, so students beginning in fall 2017 can benefit from the program.

"I've seen a lot of people fall through the cracks who are minorities, just because they didn't feel comfortable in college and they had no one to talk to," Ewing said.

Through her meeting with Dean Lox, Ewing was also asked to be the voice of the black minority for the SIUE student population.

According to Ewing, Lox invited her to sit in on meetings and also plans to include a student chair position in the future to continue to be that representative minority student voice following in Ewing's footsteps.

Since starting at SIUE, Ewing has gotten involved in many organizations around campus and enjoys the ability to make a difference both on campus and within the community. She is the current president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and became a member of the sorority Sigma Gamma Rho in spring 2014. Through these organizations she has the opportunity to be a role model to younger women and students by showing them not only how to be involved on campus, but also how to properly juggle academics with a productive social life.

"It's really important to me to make sure that freshmen have a fulfilling college experience and I think through my involvement and programming, I am making that happen," Ewing said.

Ewing has been involved with University Housing for three years as of this fall, and is returning this year as a resident assistant for the second time. Previously, she worked as a desk manager before making the transition to resident assistant last year. Ewing is also a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary which is a leadership-based honorary that is focused on service and recognition within University Housing on college campuses nationwide. Through this organization, Ewing participates in service projects, fundraisers and recognizes and develops programming for incoming and returning students, as well as find ways to reach out to those students.

"My new residents are finding their place here and their people too," Ewing said. "I eagerly watch as they form relationships and connect with the people around them."

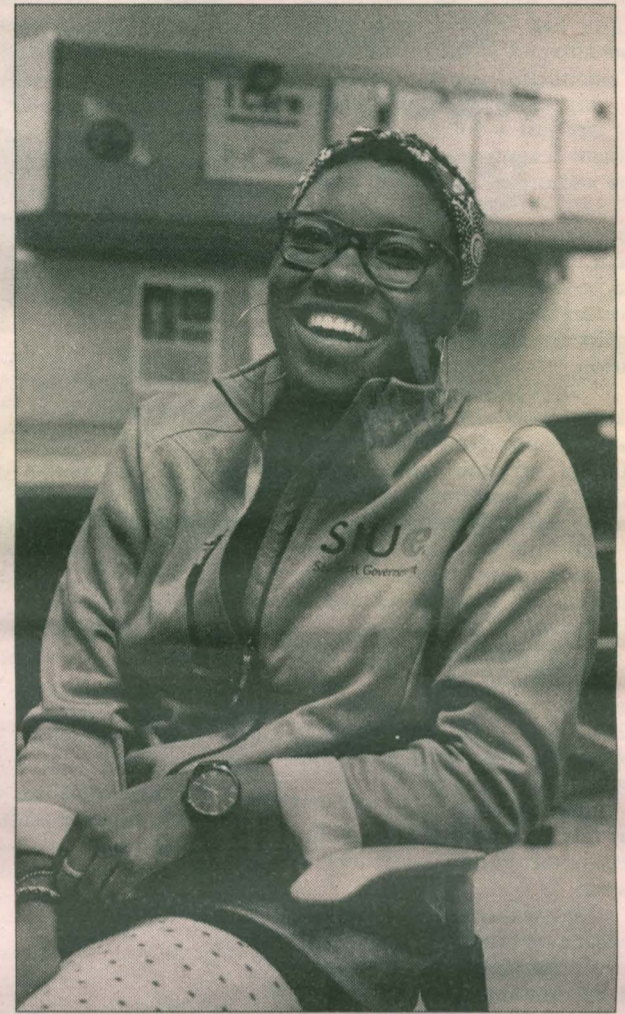
Ewing said for her it is a blessing to be able to walk around campus and see how her residents both past and present have grown throughout their time at SIUE.

"They are truly leaders on this campus and have so much fun doing it," Ewing said.

Additionally, within SG, Ewing is a representative for the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior and also serves as a liaison between a number of student organizations and Student Government. This liaison relationship serves as a way to ensure that student organizations on campus are receiving the resources from SG they need to thrive on campus.

"Sometimes I have to literally sit back and pinch myself because I have been given such a platform to make a difference and I could not be more humbled and excited about that," Ewing said. "God has given me so much joy through the people here, and the leadership roles I have taken on have created connections I won't ever forget."

Ewing dreams of one day living in Africa and hopes that upon graduation she can do just that.



"I'm all about challenging myself and finding that little bit of courage," senior psychology major Sierra Ewing, of Champaign, said. | Lashai Spencer / Alestle

"I pretty much made a deal with my mom that if I got a undergrad degree, I could move to Africa," Ewing said. "After graduation I'll begin saving up and fundraising, and hopefully the following year, I'll be moving."

"I'm all about challenging myself and finding that little bit of courage," Ewing said. "You can get so much more fulfillment out of your college experience if you're not only investing in it, but receiving from it as well."

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State law mandates yearly Haven training for all students

CONNOR McMAHON
Alestle Reporter

As required by a recent Illinois statute, all students at SIUE are required to complete the online training program for sexual assault awareness and prevention known as Haven.

Students must complete the Haven program by Oct. 1. Those who do not complete it by that time will have a hold placed on their spring 2017 registration.

Along with this program, officials at SIUE recommend that students take part in the AlcoholEdu program to learn about the consumption of alcohol and other drugs as well, though this program is not required.

Chad Martinez, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity Access and Title IX Coordination, said there are multiple reasons for having students participate in the Haven program.

"The first goal is to raise awareness and provide people with understanding of how to identify and recognize the resources available to them if they

need assistance," Martinez said. "We also want to improve our response when students do come forward."

Martinez said that this program is important because sexual assault will affect so many people on campus during their time in college.

"It is important because of the number of instances that occur," Martinez said. "Statistics show that one in five female students will experience attempted or actual assault, and one in twenty male students will experience an attempted or completed assault during their time on campus."

The Haven program goes beyond sexual assault and educates SIUE students on similar issues, like relationship violence and stalking, according to Martinez.

"It is important that people are aware of the issues," Martinez said. "So that we can not only minimize the issue, but can improve our response when they happen."

SIUE has participated in the Haven program for the last three years — this is the first time that

all students are required to participate due to an Illinois law that went into effect this year — so Martinez said that it is too early to tell if the program is working.

"Only the second and third-year students would have been required to take [the program] so far," Martinez said. "But we are trying to change the culture so that sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking are not accepted."

James Klenke, associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs and dean of students, said it is important that students participate in this program, and not just because it is required by law.

"It is our desire to have a safe campus that is free of sexual harassment and sexual assault," Klenke said. "Our number one goal is to have a campus that is free of those issues."

Klenke said, along with educating students on sexual harassment and violence, the university wants students to learn about alcohol consumption because the two can go hand-in-hand.

"This is the third year that we

have done AlcoholEdu, though we have had other programs for alcohol in the past," Klenke said. "We want to educate students on the danger of alcohol consumption and its effects on student well-being."

Klenke said educating students is the key to improving campus and making it a much safer environment for students to be in.

"I strongly encourage students to participate in AlcoholEdu even though it is not required," Klenke said. "But Haven is required prior to a student signing up for registration. If students are aware then it is going to be a much more productive and positive campus."

Junior nursing major Alexes Graziano, of Marshall, said she believes the Haven program is important for students to participate in.

"I think it is important for students to be aware of sexual assault and sexual harassment," Graziano said. "I think a lot of people don't even know the actual definitions. It is important for students

to be aware of the resources and how to handle supporting someone who comes to you."

First year professional pharmacy student Jonah Longdon, of Winnebago, said he believes educating students is important, but he feels that the medium could be improved.

"I think that the program provides valuable information, but the way that they get it out there is not appropriate," Longdon said. "I think that students need to be educated but through a different platform that doesn't allow them to just fly through it."

Klenke said, despite the programs being relatively new, he believes they are working and has noticed a change in attitude and awareness around campus.

"I think that they are working," Klenke said. "I don't have specific statistics but the awareness is much greater than it was prior to implementing these programs."

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Edwardsville approves Garden's lease

CONNOR McHANON
Alestle Reporter

The City of Edwardsville has agreed to take over the lease of the Gardens at SIUE from the university following Edwardsville Mayor Hal Patton's tie-breaking vote after a 3-3 vote by the board of aldermen.

The terms agreed to will cost the city just a dollar per year to actually lease the property, but it also authorizes a one-time award of \$40,000 for fiscal year 17. Following this one-time agreement, the city council will review the lease every year and decide whether to continue or cut funding for the Gardens, according to Patton.

"The alderman [want] to take a look and see approach with this first year," Patton said. "Things happened quite rapidly, and it wasn't budgeted in this year's fiscal budget."

The four yes votes came from aldermen Tom Butts, Jeanette Mallon, Art Risavy and Mayor Hal Patton.

"[The aldermen] were a little nervous about taking on something big mid-year," Patton said. "They were concerned about personnel and the funds not being on this year's budget."

The \$40,000 will be paid for out of the city's community development fund, according to Patton.

"These funds are from a utility and entertainment tax," Patton said. "The money is coming out of a community redevelopment fund and not out of the general fund of sales tax and property tax dollars."

The lease, per the agreement, is set to be reviewed again next fiscal year by the city council.

Marian Smithson, chair of the Gardens Advisory Board, said she is happy with the agreement SIUE and the City of Edwardsville have reached.

"Getting support from the city will really help the university," Smithson said. "[Edwardsville] is providing \$40,000 for the Gardens and that will help the university manage the Gardens, which [it was] struggling to do."

Smithson said the money pledged should be plenty for keeping up the management of the Gardens.

"We are already halfway through the fiscal year, so it should be plenty in addition to the money we already have on hand," Smithson said. "Our goal is going to be fundraising so that we can add to our resources."

Junior exercise science major Dominic Sanguinette of St. Louis said he enjoys the Gardens and is glad they will remain a resource for students.

"I like walking through the Gardens to and from classes and playing 'Pokemon Go' there," Sanguinette said. "So I think it's a really good idea for the city to help SIUE out."

Patton said he is happy the lease has been agreed to because he wants a strong relationship between the city and the university.

"The important thing is to continue to develop a strong relationship with SIUE," Patton said. "We want to make the resources that the campus has available to all our residents. Supporting the Gardens is a win-win as I see it."

READ MORE ABOUT GARDENTS
AT ALESTLELIVE.COM.

MINORITY REPORT: Black Lives Matter conference returns in October

LaSHAUNDA JORDAN
Alestle Reporter

Coming in October, the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion under the direction of Associate Chancellor Venessa Brown, will present "Black Lives Matter: We Are One...Are We?"

Last spring SIUE hosted two Black Lives Matter conferences, one in January and one in April. Both conferences combined drew more than 500 people.

Bryan Jack and Jessica Harris, both historical studies professors, were key players in organizing and facilitating this year's conference. Both were involved with the inaugural SIUE Black Lives Matter conference in January.

"The conference, 'Black Lives Matter: We Are One...Are We?' will, on a macro level, deal with the topics of privilege in 'post-racial America,' and on a micro level, discuss how privilege and the myth of post-racialism has implications for how to address issues related to diversity and inclusion at SIUE," Harris said.

The focal point of the October conference will be the "White Like Me: Race, Racism & White Privilege in America," by Tim Wise, anti-racist author and educator.

"After the film, we will proceed with small breakout group

discussions, and then end with a facilitated larger wrap up conversation," Harris said.

"I think 'We Are One' is a great goal to try to achieve. We have not achieved it yet; I think it's a work in progress that we are trying to achieve," Jack said.

Conferences like this and dialogues like these are important steps to try and change the narrative of equality on campus for minorities.

"I [also] think the university is a reflection of society. We are in a society where differences occur, so differences are going to occur on campus as well, and we can strive to be an example and be better than society if we can. I think that's where we are," Jack said.

Jack said he believes the first two conferences were important for the questions that were raised, but now it's important to start providing answers.

"I know this is a big challenge, but we're willing to try," Jack said.

Dialogue is very important, according to Jack, and he said it is going to be moving beyond dialogue that allows us to get to the next step—solutions.

Former Black Lives Matter panelist, senior mass communications major and black studies minor, D'Amonti Batton-Jackson senior psychology major and black studies minor, Brianna

Reed along with SIUE English and literature professor Elizabeth Cali shared their thoughts about the racial climate on our campus and the Black Lives Matter conferences.

"I feel that the Black Lives Matter Conferences are amazing, but I feel that the conversation needs to be supported by [SIUE] actually creating and enforcing policies," Jackson said.

As far as being equal, Jackson said he does not think we are all treated equally. He said if we were all equal then the retention of first year African-American students wouldn't be an issue.

"I do not feel that the black community has an identity or any culture at SIUE. I feel that we're viewed as numbers that help the 'diversity' rate and it shows in our performance and involvement. It's very discouraging," Reed said.

Jackson also said that the support is not reflected at SIUE and it can be seen that the minorities, specifically black faculty are underrepresented, in classes we aren't acknowledged and Jackson said to the school we are a quota.

"I thought that it was really important to have student voices. We are trying to spread the word more explicitly to students [about the upcoming conference]; also we are hoping that because of students that were involved in previous ones that they will be talking about their experiences, to bring

in other students and really get more student involvement," Jack said.

According to Cali, the key to solutions is education, she feels that we need to have opportunities to be educated on race and African-American experiences of racial injustice and white supremacy well before and through the university level.

In terms of "racial climate," Cali said that the creation of opportunities is critical for a positive and enriching environment. She said it is, in her opinion, that the available opportunities for African-American students (the fastest growing student population on our campus) needs to increase significantly and systematically in order to create a culture and climate here that values African-American students on campus, in the classroom, and as SIUE community leaders.

"In some places I see very active groups of students, professors, staff, and administrators making serious commitments to creating opportunities for African American students specifically and students of color more broadly," Cali said.

According to Cali, the other part is that we need to have folks who are open to being educated rather than responding with defensiveness or outright rejection. She went on to say that when we have people at an institution of higher education who don't want to learn, or are opposed to learning about the specific histories and present experiences of African-Americans then the racial climate is going to be increasingly negative.

Jack and Harris said that they loved the community turnout, the support from the administration, staff and faculty who have been there, as well as the students who have participated.

More information on the conference and registration will be available soon.

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Historical studies professor Jessica Harris speaks at the Black Lives Matter Conference in January.

| Alestle file photo

Director of 'The S Word' brings suicide out of the dark

CAITLIN LALLY
Alestle Editor-In-Chief

"Suicide is everywhere," award-winning documentarian Lisa Klein said frankly.

Klein has spent the past three years working on her latest film, "The S Word," which highlights a topic many shy away from discussing. Thursday, Sept. 8, students will have the opportunity to view a rough cut of the documentary and give feedback to the director herself.

"The S Word" is really a passion project — both my father and my brother died by suicide," Klein said.

After completing her first film about bipolar disorder called "Of Two Minds," which briefly touched on suicide, Klein said she realized she needed to do her part to open up a much-needed conversation.

"I realized there was so much to be done and said. [Suicide] is such a taboo topic — it's just something that isn't talked about," Klein said.

Although the movie is centered around something that isn't people's favorite topic of conversation, according to Klein, it

also has to do with finding ways to cope and survive and even has some humorous elements.

"As much as it's about death, it's about life, too," Klein said. "We want to put a human face on something that's really been thrown to the statistics... and it's like, you know what, maybe it's time to meet these people, who have attempted to die, who've wanted to not be here, but they're here."

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, and for every death by suicide, there are 25 attempts.

Klein said she believes everybody knows somebody who has dealt with suicide.

"You may not have... but I can almost guarantee when you reach a certain age, 20, maybe 15 now, you at least know somebody who knows somebody. And it isn't a good thing," Klein said.

While suicide is a public health epidemic, Klein said she believes that everyone can be a part of the solution by familiarizing themselves with the risk factors.

Mental health conditions including depression, anxiety disorders and substance abuse disorders are just a few of the health factors that could contribute to suicidal behavior, according to AFSP. Additionally, a few warning signs to look for are withdrawal from usual activities, giving away prized possessions and isolation from friends and family, as well as talking about being a burden to others, having no reason to live or plans to harm oneself.

"Just be there for people; it's common compassion. It's really kind of simple — that's the weird thing," Klein said. "It isn't about 'I'm going to save you' or 'I'm going to come up with some reason that you should be here.' It really is about listening..."

According to Klein, one of the goals of "The S Word" is to normalize a conversation about something that shouldn't be so common and allow others affected by suicide to find community.

"I don't want suicide to be normal anymore, but I want the conversation about it to be," Klein said.

The rough cut screening of "The S Word" will take place 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, in the

Meridian Ballroom, followed by a Q&A session and a chance to give feedback to Klein in-person.

If you or someone you know is in a crisis situation, seek support by calling SIUE Counseling Services at 650-2842 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., local or University Police anytime at 911, or the Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7 at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

For more resources, visit siue.edu/counseling/emergency. For more information about "The S Word" go to theswordmovie.com.

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| Photo via IMDB

POLICE BLOTTER

09.04.16

During a routine traffic stop, Bianca S. Lopez (19 years old, 1857 Plum St., Jacksonville) was arrested for DUI. She was handcuffed and transported to SIUE PD. Lopez was fingerprinted, photographed and processed. The officer also issued a state citation for speeding 63 mph in a 45 mph zone. Lopez posted her drivers license and \$100 bond and was released. The offenses occurred on East University Drive. Her vehicle was towed by Browns Towing Company.

During a routine traffic stop Alfonso R. Escobar (37 years old, 4180 Canal Road, Edwardsville) was arrested for DUI and driving on a suspended license. The officer issued state citations for improper lane use and no insurance. Escobar was handcuffed and transported to SIUE PD. Escobar was photographed, handcuffed and processed. He was released on \$300 bond. The offenses occurred on New Poag Road at Stadium Drive. His vehicle was towed by Browns Towing Company.

An officer met with a faculty member who observed a pile of copper tubing near the Nature Preserve Field Station. The officer arrived on scene and observed the copper tubing appeared to have been sawed into pieces. The officer confiscated the tubing. The case is under investigation.

An officer responded to 501 Cougar Village for an active fire alarm. University Housing was notified. Alarm was activated by cooking and was restored.

An officer issued a written warning for speeding 56 mph in a 45 mph zone. The offense occurred at East University Drive and State Route 157.

An officer collected a wallet found in the restroom of the Student Fitness Center. The owner was contacted and advised he would pick it up.

09.05.16

An officer checked Illinois registered vehicle Q908609 that was parked at the information board near Lewis Road. The owner was in the vehicle and advised she was not feeling well and had pulled over for a minute.

An officer issued a written warning for speeding 39 mph in a 25 mph zone. The offense occurred at North University Road and North Circle Drive.

An officer took a walk-in report regarding a female subject stating she went with a male acquaintance to Walmart and he had her belongings in his vehicle. Both parties agreed to meet off campus where the male subject would return the items.

An officer responded to 517 Cougar Village regarding a resident requesting an escort from her apartment to

her vehicle. The female subject advised the officer that she and her boyfriend had just been involved in a physical altercation. She stated he had pushed her to the ground and she had hit him in the face with a closed fist several times.

She stated the male subject had holstered pistol in his backpack and rifle in a gun case in her car's trunk. She stated she was going to retrieve it for him so he could take all his possessions and leave. At the time, the officer confiscated an unloaded rifle from the female's car and an unloaded pistol from the male subject's backpack. The officer also confiscated ammunition from the backpack. The male subject then provided the officer with a valid FOID card. Samantha Jordan (20 years old, 1223 Cypress Road, St. Jacob) was placed under arrest for domestic battery. Jordan was brought to the SIUE PD where she was fingerprinted, photographed and processed. Jordan was taken to Madison County Jail and placed on a hold. The male subject was released with charges pending review of the case by the Madison County State's Attorney.

An officer responded to an active fire alarm at 417 Cougar Village. The alarm was activated by cooking and was restored.

09.06.16

An officer took a walk-in report at 428 Cougar Village regarding a male subject stating his ex-wife was in violation of their custody agreement by not returning their children to him at the agreed upon time. Officers spoke with the female subject who refused to return the children. Male subject will contact the courts on the violation.

Johnathan Nichols (35 years old, 30 Sunray Drive, Highland) was arrested for unlawful storage of weapons. Subject was fingerprinted, photographed, and processed. Nichols was served a persona non grata along with a notice to appear and was released.

An officer issued a written warning for speeding 59 mph in a 45 mph zone. The offense occurred on North University Drive.

An officer issued a written warning for speeding 59 mph in a 45 mph zone. The offense occurred on South University Drive at Stadium Drive.

An officer took a walk-in report regarding a hit-and-run accident on Illinois registered vehicle NRGPLS5, while parked in Lot 5, that occurred on 09/03/16.

An officer responded to 415 Cougar Village regarding an active fire alarm. The officer advised the alarm was activated due to cooking. There was no fire, no smoke, no damage. Area secure.

An officer responded to the information desk in the Morris University Center regarding an iPhone being found. The officer advised the owner of the phone picked up before his arrival.

SIUE remembers 9/11



"The Rock" emblazoned with an American flag and the twin towers is pictured in the Stratton Quadrangle Wednesday, Sept. 7. The SIUE College Republicans have partnered with the Young America's Foundation to host the 9/11: Never Forget Project. The SIUE Republicans put up 2,996 United States flags around the quad, one for each life lost in the 9-11 attacks. The display will be up until Monday, Sept. 12. | Brian Munoz / Alestle

University of San Diego botched dormitory case, lawsuit alleges

KATE MORRISSEY
San Diego Union-Tribune

A former University of San Diego student is suing the school, saying she was drugged, choked and raped in her dorm room and the school mishandled the investigation.

The student, who requested that she be identified only by her nickname "Niki," reported that she was attacked in February 2014.

"I thought the people at the school would be willing to help me," Niki said, who was a student athlete, said, "I thought that they'd be there for me and do what they could to make me feel somewhat safe, and they treated me like I was the one who had done something wrong."

USD spokeswoman Pamela Gray Payton said that the private Catholic university does not comment on open investigations or pending litigation. She said, however, that the university disputes the description of events by Niki's attorney.

"One of our most cherished values at USD is our commitment to the dignity of each human being," Payton said. "Sexual violence in any form is antithetical to our mission, and we take very seriously our obligations under Title IX."

The year Niki reported the attack, USD reported six rapes on campus. By comparison, the much larger San Diego State University reported 12 rapes on campus in 2014.

Niki was hanging out with her new roommates and their friends in her dorm on Feb. 8, 2014, according to court papers. One of the friends offered to make her a mimosa, Niki recalled.

"When he gave it to me, after drinking a little bit of it, I started to feel very dizzy, very weak," she said in a telephone interview. "It was getting hard to move."

Niki said that her roommates went to bed shortly after, and that's when the man choked and raped her.

She said that as soon as she was able to move again, she fled her dorm room and called a friend for help. In a nearby campus parking garage, she met with an officer from the university's Department of Public Safety.

Niki said she told the officer she was drugged and raped and that she wanted him to call the police. He arranged for an ambulance to take Niki to the hospital.

The officer who wrote the report went to Niki's dorm. From there, according to Niki's lawyer, Carla DiMare, the university botched the investigation.

At Niki's dorm, the officer let himself in and found a naked man asleep in Niki's bed, according to his report. He asked the man what Niki had had to drink that night, and the man answered Four Loko, a malt beverage.

The officer noticed a nearly full can of Four Loko and asked the man if that was Niki's drink, according to the report. The man said no, she had actually had wine and whiskey, the report said.

Two more public safety officers arrived at the dorm. One asked the man if he had sex with Niki. He said, "Yes," the report says.

That officer then gave the man a ride home.

There is no mention in the report of the officers asking follow-up questions or collecting evidence, such as to test the drinks for drugs, or of trying to keep

the man from contaminating the crime scene.

Asked about the apparent omission, Payton said, "The Department of Public Safety responded immediately and in a manner consistent with its protocols."

According to court filings by USD, the public safety officers were only aware that Niki might have been drugged when she left in the ambulance. Only later did the hospital inform the university that she said she'd been sexually assaulted, the filings say.

A San Diego police officer came to the hospital to see Niki around 5:19 a.m., according to a police report. Niki's mother said the call to police was made by the hospital. Court filings from the university assert that the SDPD "was notified."

DiMare said that the delayed call to police and the lack of evidence gathered by the university public safety officers hamstrung the investigation.

The district attorney's office decided not to proceed with charges, according to an email written from the police detective to a university public safety officer.

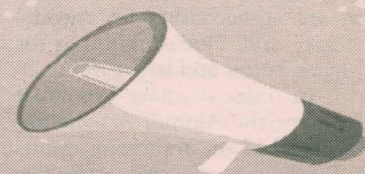
"They definitely believe her that the assault occurred; however, they feel they don't have enough to prove the allegation beyond a reasonable doubt ... As you know, (he) admitted to the sex acts, but denies it was forced. It is unfortunate there was not some justice for the victim," the May 1, 2014, email from Detective Tracey Barr says.

The Police Department did not respond to a request for comment.

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SIUE Alumnus takes customers to the 'Otherside' with new Edwardsville business

KIAH EARL
Alestle Reporter

SIUE graduate Alex Tidball is keeping his expertise in the community and has recently opened up a gaming store like no other: Otherside Games. Located at 231 N. Main St. in the heart of downtown Edwardsville, Otherside Games caters to a special type of gamer.

Otherside Games opened Aug. 1, and, according to Tidball, has been doing well for itself. The community has been receptive of the new business located right next door to Sacred Grounds coffee shop and sees new traffic daily. The gaming store offers a variety of items and specializes in board games, card games, miniatures, which are small game pieces that can be painted and played with, and miniature painting supplies.

Edwardsville resident Joshua Rivera says that the new gaming

store is a cool and innovative addition to downtown Edwardsville.

"I like the new store; the other local gaming shops don't offer the same types of things and it's cool that they cater to that special niche," Rivera said.

Unlike the competition, Otherside Games sets itself apart by carrying specialty products that cater to a niche community of gamers. Tidball said he sets himself apart by offering something different, and it just so happens that, in his opinion, Edwardsville has been a perfect place to take that leap.

Otherside Games carries games such as Magic, Pokemon, Settlers of Catan, 7 Wonders, Carcassonne, Warhammer 40k, Star Wars X-Wing and Malifaux, just to name a few. Tidball said that board game popularity is on the rise and while his business is focused on board games overall, he sees an equal profit from all

areas within the store.

Otherside Games is open from 1 p.m. until 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 1 p.m. until 11 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. until midnight on Saturday and 12 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Sunday. Tidball said for gaming stores, typically the late hours are when they see the most customers.

Tidball said he plans on extending the hours for the store in the future, and looks to hire more employees as business grows.

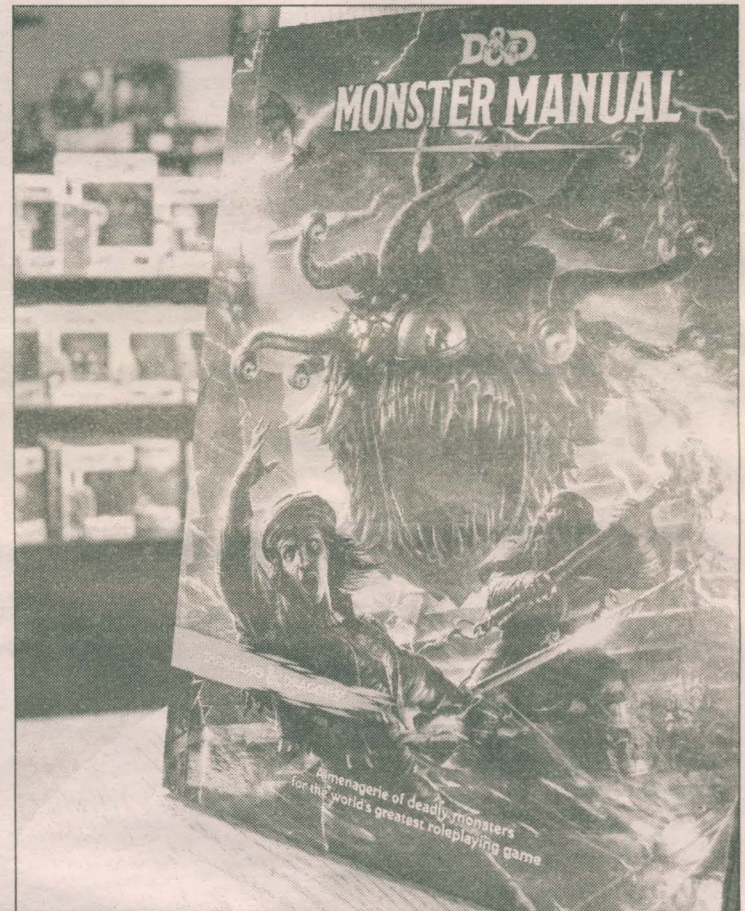
Outside of regular business hours, Tidball offers community activity nights where gamers from the community can come and socialize with others all while actively participating in games or gaming related activities, such as painting miniatures.

Tidball said that incorporating the social aspect of gaming is important to him and by putting on events throughout the week, it gets gamers out and socially interacting with other people.

Tidball received his Masters' in geography from SIUE and encourages current students to continue pursuing higher education. While he is pursuing a career in entrepreneurship, he said that the higher education process is formative for anyone who goes through it.

Tidball said he encourages students to be entrepreneurs and venture outside of what your degree limits you to do.

"The reason I was able to do this is because I have a lot of experience in the field already," Tidball said. "I would tell anyone who wants to open a business to make sure they've been an employee in that environment first, that way they know what they're getting into."



Monster Manual is seen as the sourcebook for fantasy roleplayers of all ages Friday, Sept. 3, at Otherside Games in Edwardsville.

| Samantha Kitchen / The Alestle



SIUE alumnus Alex Tidball has the eye for an expansive selection of card games, board games and miniatures for a variety of players Friday, Sept. 3, at Otherside Games in Edwardsville.

| Samantha Kitchen / Alestle

Tidball said if you've spent the proper time preparing and educating yourself on your own business and trade, this will help you in founding a successful business.

"I've been into the store a few times since its opening, and the owner seems extremely knowledgeable and helpful," Rivera said. "No one is a better employee

than you, if you're the owner of a store," Tidball said.

Visit facebook.com/othersidegameshq to stay up to date on new products and events happening at Otherside Games.

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Alumni Association aims to make homecoming live up to its name

CHLOE SMITH
Alestle Lifestyles Editor

Not unlike other college campuses around the country, homecoming is one of the biggest and well-loved events SIUE has to offer. However, the Alumni Association is aiming to make homecoming even better than it is now, for former and active students alike.

President of the Alumni Association Alan Kehrer said that the association wants homecoming to keep growing.

"Homecoming has always been one of those weekends where, since SIUE is absent a football team, that it's been a challenge to make it a big event. For us, homecoming is about alumni, and it's about students, and we have a passionate group of people on our board who want to see homecoming be bigger," Kehrer said. "We're shooting for bigger, better and larger things."

In order to make this homecoming a reality, the Alumni Association has worked on improving events it has held in the past, as well as

adding two new events to the list of homecoming festivities.

The events include the Alumni Hall of Fame induction at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, in the Morris University Center Conference Center, the "Cougars Unleashed" Homecoming Run and Pancake Breakfast at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, beginning at Birger Hall, tailgating at the men's soccer game from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at Korte Stadium and the Brunch and Bubbly Fraternity and Sorority Alumni Reunion from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Meridian Ballroom.

Kehrer said the association hopes that holding alumni-focused and alumni-sponsored events will refresh former students' connection to the university and foster relationships with them and current students.

"This year, we've really focused on engaging alumni and bringing them back to campus. Our overall mission is to be more involved and have alumni mentor students, be involved in classrooms whenever possible and participate in things just to get

them back here on campus, see what's going on and see how it's grown since they've left, so we've kind of approached our whole homecoming process with that [in mind]," Kehrer said.

The Alumni Association's first event of the week, the Alumni Hall of Fame induction, is a night honoring individuals who have achieved significant success in their field after graduating.

"We identify really accomplished alumni from the various schools across campus, and they are nominated by, typically, their peers in their industry, or a former classmate of theirs, or even by a family member or the dean or somebody from [the nominee's] school who they interact with on a regular basis, and they are brought in for an evening celebration," Kehrer said. "It's really a celebration of their time since they've left the university, and what they've done and accomplished."

Anyone can attend the Alumni Hall of Fame induction, but must purchase a ticket.

While the Hall of Fame event

has been held for several years, the Alumni Association's Saturday morning event will be making its debut.

"Myself and several of the other Alumni Board members have been wanting to do some type of organized run activity, and finally got some of the traction," Kehrer said. "We came up with this idea of doing a run — at first, it was going to be a 5K, but then we got to talking. We wanted to differentiate ourselves, so we're doing a 5K, a 10K and a 1-mile fun walk."

Kehrer said the Alumni Association has partnered not only with CAB and Campus Rec, but also local businesses where alumni work, such as RunWell and Final Lap Race Management in Edwardsville.

According to Kehrer, the race was planned so participants can take in some of the "landmarks" on campus, from Birger Hall, the location of the Alumni Association, to the Gardens at SIUE, to the Cougar Statue.

The event will also include pancakes from Chris's Cakes in

St. Louis, and Me 2 You Gaming, also in St. Louis. Me 2 You Gaming is a business run by an alumnus who will bring a bus that is filled with gaming monitors inside, and it allows people outside of the bus to watch the games being played.

According to Kehrer, this event's purpose goes beyond entertainment.

"The whole [purpose] of [the run], besides bringing people back to campus, is to raise money for the Alumni Association," Kehrer said. "Any proceeds from this run event will go toward the Alumni Scholarship Fund."






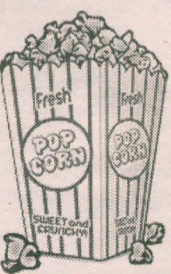
Active students can participate in the run for free, but will need to pay a fee for a t-shirt and breakfast.

Kehrer said the association hopes that, once people come to campus for the run, they come back for the homecoming tailgate that evening.

READ MORE ABOUT ALUMNI
AT ALESTLELIVE.COM



Where to be at the 'e': your September calendar

<p>THURSDAY, SEPT. 8 Mississippi Valley Community blood drive 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Stratton Quadrangle Alpha Psi Lambda Interest Meeting 6 - 8 p.m., Morris University Center International Room Couture' Models tryouts 7 - 9 p.m., Goshen Lounge and West Slate</p>		<p>FRIDAY, SEPT. 9 Men's soccer v. California State Northridge 7 - 10 p.m, Korte Stadium</p>
<p>SATURDAY, SEPT. 10 SIUE eSports Smash Bros Tournament 9a.m. - 11p.m., MUC Conference Center Phi Beta Sigma campus BBQ 7 p.m. - 12 a.m., the quad</p>		<p>MONDAY, SEPT. 12 Goshen Showcase 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Goshen Lounge Send Silence Packing 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., the quad</p>
<p>TUESDAY, SEPT. 13 Society of Women Engineers Krispy Kreme fundraiser 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., by the Cougar Statue Gamma Phi Omega physical health event 2 - 3 p.m., Student Success Center 1203 Club basketball tryouts 5 - 7 p.m., Student Fitness Center Court B, Room 1420B Delta Lambda Phi Rush 7:30 - 11 p.m., MUC Maple/Dogwood Room</p>		<p>THURSDAY, SEPT. 15 CAB Hispanic Heritage Month 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Goshen Lounge Alternative Spring Break Information Meeting 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., SSC 1201 CAB Informational Meeting 4:45 - 6:30 p.m, SSC 1203 NPHC Quad Show 6 - 10 p.m., the quad Club basketball tryouts 7 - 9 p.m., Student Fitness Center Room 2402 Delta Lambda Phi Rush 7:30 - 11 p.m., SSC 1201</p>
<p>FRIDAY, SEPT. 16 Xfest 2016 presents: Chicago Dance Crash - "Evil & Good" 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Dunham Hall Theater Late Night at the MUC 8p.m - midnight, Goshen Lounge</p>		<p>SATURDAY, SEPT. 17 Cougar Kids Noon - 2 p.m., MUC Mississippi/Illinois Room CAB Late Night Bingo 7 - 11:30 p.m., Meridian Ballroom Men's soccer v. Lipscomb University 7 - 9 p.m., Korte Stadium</p>
<p>TUESDAY, SEPT. 20 Wellness/Benefits Fair 11a.m. - 2 p.m., Meridian Ballroom Screening of "The First Secret City" 5 - 9 p.m., Peck Hall 23204 Alternative Spring Break (Roanoke) meeting 6 - 7 p.m., SSC 1203 CAB: Current Affairs Event 6 - 9 p.m., Goshen Lounge Jazz Combo Concert 8 - 10 p.m, Dunham Hall Theater</p>		<p>WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21 CAB: Cougar Craze 10a.m. - 2 p.m., Goshen Lounge Meet the Greeks (NPHC) 6 - 8 p.m., MUC Madison Room Volleyball v. Eastern Illinois University 6 - 8:30 p.m., Vadalabene Center Full Gym, 1301 Alternative Spring Break (Jamaica) meeting 7 - 8 p.m., SSC 1201 Phi Beta Sigma Black Men Inspire 7 - 10 p.m., MUC Maple/Dogwood Room</p>
<p>THURSDAY, SEPT. 22 Autism Speaks U bake sale 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Peck Hall lobby Sigma Pi's Amazing Day Auction 6 - 11p.m., Meridian Ballroom Phi Beta Sigma Neophyte presentation 7 - 10 p.m., University Restaurant</p>		<p>FRIDAY, SEPT. 23 CAB: Quad Day 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., the quad Women's soccer v. University of Tennessee Martin 7 - 9 p.m., Korte Stadium</p>
<p>SATURDAY, SEPT. 24 Volleyball v. Tennessee State University 1 - 4:30 p.m., Vadalabene Center Full Gym 1301</p>		<p>SUNDAY, SEPT. 25 Women's soccer v. Southeast Missouri State University 1 - 3 p.m., Korte Stadium</p>
<p>MONDAY, SEPT. 26 Commuter Coffee Break 8 - 10:30 a.m., red parking lots Uber Eddie 8 - 10 a.m., red parking lots Bank of Edwardsville free donuts 10 - 11 a.m., MUC entrance King and Queen voting booth 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Goshen Lounge Homecoming kickoff 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., the quad magician Derek Hughes 7 p.m., Meridian Ballroom</p>		<p>TUESDAY, SEPT. 27 Uber Eddie 8 - 10 a.m., red parking lots King and Queen voting booth 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Goshen Lounge Homecoming Karaoke 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Goshen Lounge Sigma Lambda Beta informational meeting 6 - 7:45 p.m., SSC 1201</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28 Uber Eddie 8 - 10 a.m., red parking lots Campus Rec presents: 15th Annual Chili Cook-off the quad Golf cart parade 4 - 6 p.m., the quad to Woodland Bowl SG & Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Homecoming bonfire 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Woodland Bowl Screening of "Back to the Future" 7 p.m., Meridian Ballroom</p>		<p>THURSDAY, SEPT. 29 Uber Eddie 8 - 10 a.m., red parking lots Free popcorn 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Cougar-Store Cosmic bowling 9 - 11 p.m., Cougar Lanes</p>
<p>FRIDAY, SEPT. 30 Uber Eddie 8 - 10 a.m., red parking lots Fight song with SIUE Athletics 12 p.m., the quad Alumni Hall of Fame induction 6:30 p.m., MUC Conference Center RHA Presents: Homecoming dance 9 p.m. - midnight, Meridian Ballroom Late Skate 9 - 10 p.m., East Alton Ice Arena</p>		

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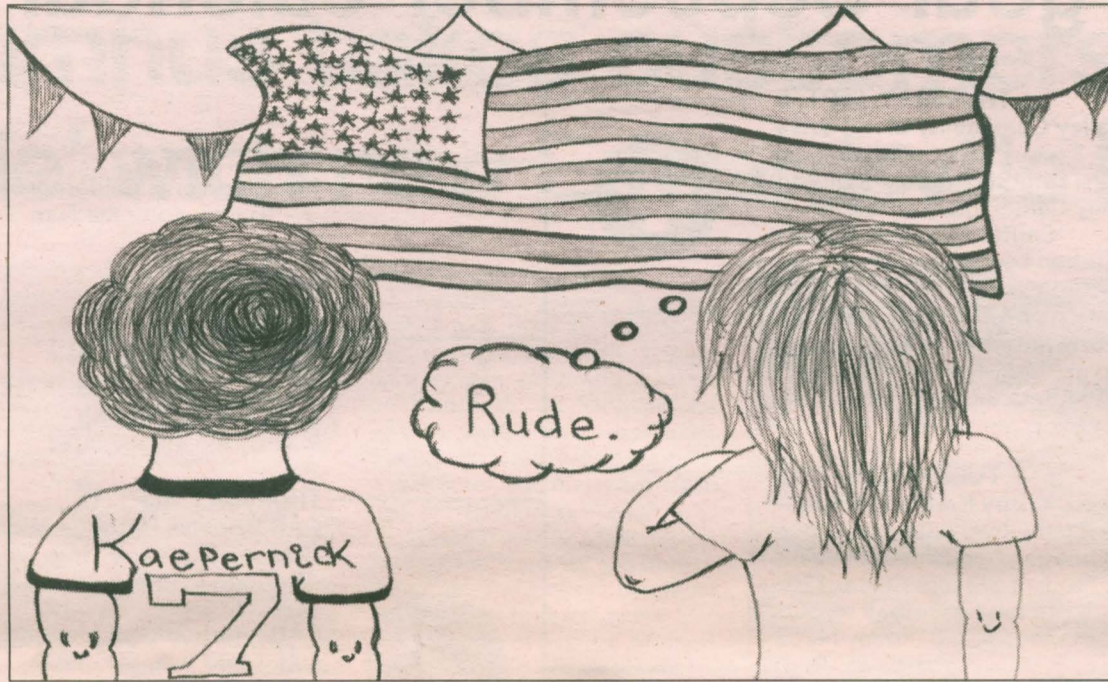


Illustration by Nicole Patton / Alestle

Clean up social media for future employers

It is safe to say that social media has been around for at least 10 years. However, the use of social media has only begun to gain popularity within the last five to seven years. With that being said, there are all types of people on social media; it is not just for adolescents anymore.

BRITTANY COX
Alestle Secretary

According to Merriam-Webster, social media is defined as, "forms of electronic communication (as web sites for social networking and microblogging) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (as videos)."

Recently, we have noticed that some people do not quite know how to represent themselves on social media platforms. An example would be

people of our generation posting content that is just not something they would want their future employer to see or people from another generation not realizing that sometimes what they post is misunderstood.

Applied communications studies professor, Sarah Vanslette, said, "[people] do not understand the platform that [social media] is."

As stated in the definition above, social media is a platform for creating communities and sharing content. The content chosen to be shared on social media is a personal decision, but there are some things people should consider before posting an inappropriate picture or status.

Vanslette's suggestion for posting on social media is simple: "If that's not your best self, then don't be that person online."

She said what she means by this not is necessarily your "real" self, but your best self. What you want others to think of you

is the content you should be posting. This goes especially for our generation who is about to graduate.

With a simple Google search, a potential employer can find your personal account and see what kind of person you are by the content you share or post.

Our generation does not realize there could be consequences for what we post online. Nothing goes away -- ever. Someone can easily take a picture or screenshot what you post and can then show it to anyone, even if you delete it.

The most popular forms of social media for our generation especially are Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram. All three of these sites differ from Facebook in the sense that they are designed for instant updates or quick blurbs, whereas Facebook allows you to share long posts and content.

"Snapchat, Twitter those are the platforms where people don't see the consequences." This is

due to how quickly content "goes away," Vanslette said.

With all of this being said, people need to be more cognizant of what they are saying or posting online. Our generation especially needs to clean up our use of social media, because it could make you or break you for a job.

If you want to continue posting content that you would not want your employer to see, then make sure your personal account is set to private and no one is following you that could potentially see what you are posting.

Personal social media is much like a company building a brand. A company or organization would not be posting content that they would not want their customers knowing about them. In a sense, just like Vanslette said, they are posting their best self, and so should we.

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MAN on the STREET

"What are your thoughts on Kaepernick's refusal to stand during the national anthem?"



Junior criminal justice major Syllas Butler, of Springfield
"While he has the right to stand to express himself freely by not standing for the national anthem and his reason being behind all the negativity toward police right now in the country. I do believe he exercised his right in a way he's able to, being an American citizen. At the same time, there are better ways to protest what is going on in the country."



Junior business administration major Madison McDaniel, of Morris
"I think it is kind of selfish because the national anthem stands for a lot more than what he is going against. I feel like people have fought for this country and died for the national anthem and I think it stands for is more than just blacks and violence."

Sophomore pre-med major Clifton Allen, of Chicago
"I feel that you should always stand and appreciate the beauty of this country. I feel that [Kaepernick] has to stand accountable; he should have [stood] up and was part of the celebration that we had, celebrating our nation. Whatever his personal reasons behind it couldn't weigh more than the entire country."



Sophomore business major Asher Denkyirah, of Edwardsville
"People are just latching onto this because it's a black man and he is not standing for the pledge. There are so many bigger things in our society that can be talked about like in our environment and racial issues that are more important."



the ALESTLE

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Women's soccer evens record

CONNOR McMAHON
Alestle Reporter

SIUE women's soccer brought its record to 2-2-1 following a 3-1 home victory over the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"To start the weekend with a win against a quality opponent is always positive for sure," Head Coach Derek Burton said. "We had a good number of contributions. Not just minutes played, but really meaningful and quality time played by everyone who stepped on the field."

The game started out with UIC on the attack as SIUE scrambled to defend. At one point, following a save by junior goalkeeper Juli Rossi, Cougar defenders were forced to deflect multiple shots as UIC unleashed a barrage of attempts but did not manage to score.

After surviving this early onslaught, the Cougars were the first to get on the board in the 30th minute as senior defender Jorie Clawson sent in a beautiful cross from the right flank into the left side of the 18-yard box where junior forward Caroline Hoefert was able to head it past the UIC goalkeeper to draw first blood.

"We love the fact that [Clawson] can get forward on the outside," Burton said. "She is definitely an attacking-type back and [Hoefert] is feeling it. She's putting in a lot of work on the training field. She feels some responsibility this year. It's nice to see her put one in the back of the net."

The game got physical as SIUE drew multiple yellow cards. It looked like a penalty against the Cougars in the box would allow UIC to tie the game in 39th minute when the Flames were awarded a penalty kick.

But UIC was denied by Rossi who made a spectacular diving save to her left to block the shot



Sophomore forward Courtney Benning, of O'Fallon, Mo., differs a ball to a teammate at their last home match for the season, Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015. | Alestle File Photo

resulting in an eruption of happiness and relief on the SIUE sideline.

"[Rossi] is a hard-working player," Burton said. "I love to see hard-working players get rewarded with special moments. It changed the momentum back for us again. Hats off to [Rossi]. She made a great save. She read it well."

As time ran down in the half and the announcer started his patented five second count-down, freshman midfielder Peyton Roehnelt added to the half-time advantage for the Cougars, extending the lead with just seconds left.

The goal came after a free kick from freshman defender Krista McMahan sailed over the defense where Roehnelt trapped it before chipping it in over the UIC goalkeeper for her second goal of the season.

"It's unbelievable," Burton said. "That shows her competitive nature. [Roehnelt] is not going to just let the half run out. If she sees a chance, she's going to take it. Obviously getting a goal seven seconds before halftime to go up two is great for us."

UIC was able to respond in the 63rd minute following a close shot from just outside the six-yard box. Despite Rossi's best efforts, the shot glanced off the crossbar and into the net, bringing the score to 2-1.

Just when UIC might have thought that the game might be competitive again, the Cougars netted another goal to grab a two-goal advantage.

Senior forward Avery Anderson stole the ball from a UIC defender just outside the box, dribbled in and placed the shot just under the Flame's goalkeeper and into the back of the net.

"When I put [Anderson] in I told her be on her toes, be a beast and try to get something," Burton said. "She put pressure on the girl as the ball was played forward, and it stayed right in front of her. To her credit, she had good composure to put the ball in the back of the net. It gave us a little more breathing room for the rest of the game."

Though SIUE grabbed the 3-1 victory, UIC actually out-shot SIUE 11-10 and had more shots on goal as well. Despite being outshot, Rossi made four saves and kept the Cougars in the game.

SIUE will travel across the river to St. Louis to face the Billikens at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11.

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Cross country starts season strong

KYLE STEPP
Alestle Sports Editor

The men's and women's cross country teams headed to Charleston Sept. 2, for the Eastern Illinois University Walt Crawford Open, returning with multiple personal bests and many runners scoring.

Senior Erin Kennedy, junior Haley Miller and junior Jess Clarke each ran career bests and helped the Cougars secure second place in their first meet of the season.

Kennedy said the team ran well for the first competition of the year, and she has high expectations for the rest of the season.

"As a team, I feel like we did great, for the first race of the year," Kennedy said. "With returners and newcomers it is hard to see how we will all race together and work off each other, but everyone did really well. I feel like towards the end of the season we will be able to work with each other throughout the whole race."

Kennedy also said it is tough to judge the season off one meet, but the personal bests from herself and her teammates give them a positive look on the season and proves their summer training has paid off.

"This first meet is always hard to judge how it will go, so I think starting off the season with [personal records] from [Clarke], [Miller] and me is a great sign for the rest of the season. It shows how much our summer training has helped and how strong our team will be this year. I'm really excited to see where we will all be by the end of the season," Kennedy said.

Assistant Coach Kayla Brown said the Cougars planned on sticking together to put themselves ahead.

"We talked about running as a tight pack, and they executed the plan to put us in a good position. They worked really well today to place second as a team. It was exciting to see them feed off each other," Brown said.

The men's team took runner-up honors in the season opener at the EIU invitational.

Senior Keith Meyer took second overall, with a time of 25:09.28 on the 8K course. Meyer was only 13 seconds behind SIU Carbondale's Josh Maier and first place.

Junior Ben Scamihorn joined Meyer in the top 10 with a sixth-place finish and a 25:59.81 second time.

Scamihorn said he was pleased with his performance, and he was able to use the meet to find his groove for the rest of the season.

READ MORE ABOUT CROSS COUNTRY AT ALESTLELIVE.COM.

SIUE aces Evansville

CONNOR McMAHON
Alestle Reporter

SIUE volleyball dominated the University of Evansville in the finale of the SIUE Tournament Presented by DoubleTree Collinsville to earn their first home victory and first sweep of the season.

Head Coach Leah Johnson said she was very happy with the way her team performed, especially in the later sets.

"I thought we performed at really high level," Johnson said. "I thought that set one, even though the score showed we played well, I don't think we were performing as high as we wanted. But in sets two and three we put it together and were very efficient."

Johnson pointed to the team's passing as a reason for the win but said she felt the defense was the main reason the Cougars were able to dominate.

"Our passing and defense were truly the foundation of our success," Johnson said. "Our defense was phenomenal, and our effort was a different level."

Assistant Coach Luke Young had a lot of positive things to say about the offensive side of the game for SIUE.

"I was really pleased with how balanced our offense was," Young said. "We've got hitters in all positions, and our setters are doing a great job of utilizing them in the right places."

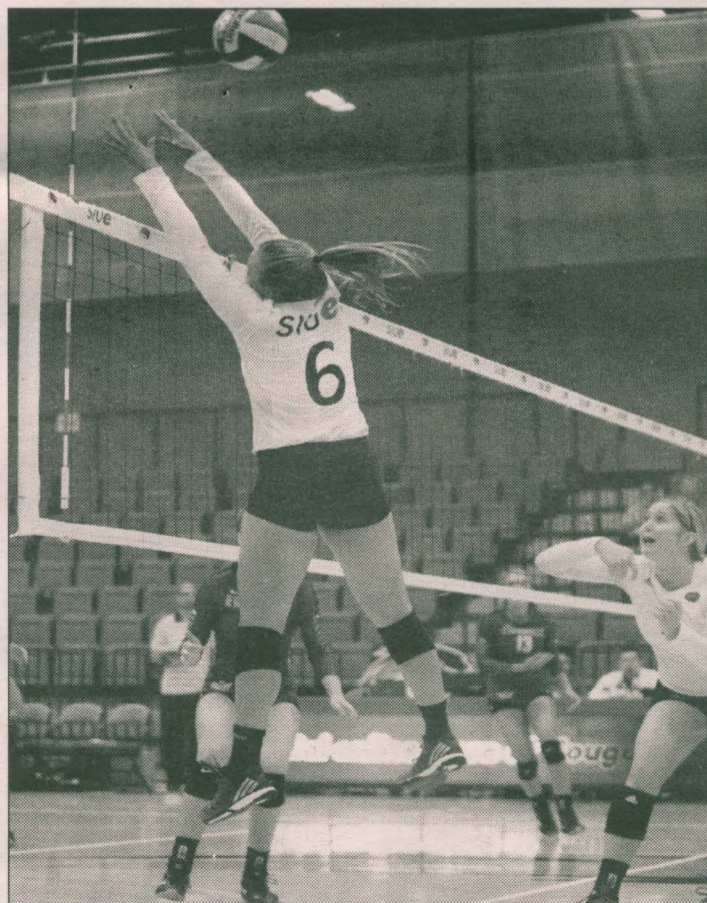
On an individual level, Young pointed to junior libero Katie Shashack and her ability on the defensive end that set up offensive opportunities.

"Shashack gave us so many opportunities to get balls in transition," Young said. "She gave us the opportunities that are really going to pay off in the long run."

Shashack was named to the All-Tournament team after recording 21 digs in the match and averaging 6.25 digs per set for the weekend.

"I have to give credit to our blockers," Shashack said. "They are making it easy for me to read around them."

READ MORE ABOUT VOLLEYBALL AT ALESTLELIVE.COM.



Freshman offensive hitter Dylann Otte, of Grand Rapids, Mich. leaps for a return in a match against Evansville Saturday, Sept. 3, at the Vadalabene Center. | Brian Muñoz / Alestle

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HOROSCOPIES

By Jennifer Shepherd, The Lipstick Mystic
Monday, Sept. 5 - Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016

Aries: March 21 - April 19

You're feeling hot and cold about romance. Don't pressure yourself to maintain a serious relationship now. You're likely to be questioning yourself, evaluating what you really want out of life and love. Venus is encouraging you to ponder some stuff.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

With the moon opposite your sign, avoid peer pressure of all kinds. Don't allow friends to force you into a social situation that isn't right for you. And don't let your significant other pressure you into doing something that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21

Jupiter is moving into a friendly sign, and it will stay there for an entire year. This will enhance your feelings of personal power and career confidence. Think about what you really want out of life, and come up with a winning plan to turn it into reality.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

The moon is creating some temporary delays. Maybe you're trying to date somebody, but you each have crazy schedules right now. Or perhaps you were on your way to getting a new job, but it is still slightly out of reach. Be patient.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22

Time is of the essence. Pay close attention to your calendar so you don't miss any deadlines, appointments or social events. Saturn is telling you to manage your energy and time wisely. With some extra focus, you'll breeze through any stress with ease.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Mercury retrograde could affect you for a few weeks. Avoid starting any big projects or making life-changing commitments. Instead, re-evaluate your current situation and figure out some ways to make things better. You could have some great ideas..

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Jupiter is moving into your sign, and it will stay there for an entire year. This will bring lots of good energy to your life. It will be a great time to let go of toxic situations and people from your past while moving forward into some happy new events.

Scorpio: Oct. 24 - Nov. 2

You'll feel drawn to someone this week. This could be a casual friend who is interested in becoming something more. Or it could be a neighbor, co-worker or service professional who crosses your path in an entertaining way. The moon says pay attention.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Two planets are boosting your energy, helping you to feel super confident. It's a good time to take a risk, socially or professionally. Market yourself or your services. Get out to some places where you can meet cool people.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Money is on your mind, thanks to the moon. You might be thinking about working an extra job to bring in extra cash. Or you could be coming up with ideas about expanding your business. Make sure your partner understands you need space to figure this out.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Jupiter will soon be doing you some favors, and you need the extra help. You could experience a romantic breakthrough after a period of pain or loneliness. Or you might find that you're doing better with your career and education. Things are looking up.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20

You're in one of your shy moods this week thanks to Mercury's influence. It's OK to pull back from friends and family and take some down time. You'll want to chill out and relax, getting in touch with your unique feelings and thoughts.

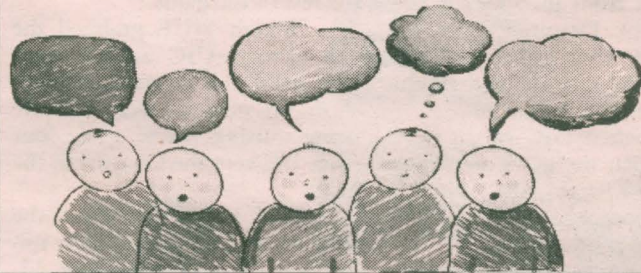
Jennifer Shepherd, the Lipstick Mystic®, is an astrologer and syndicated columnist with over 2 million readers. For mystical fun and psychic insights visit www.lipstickmystic.com.

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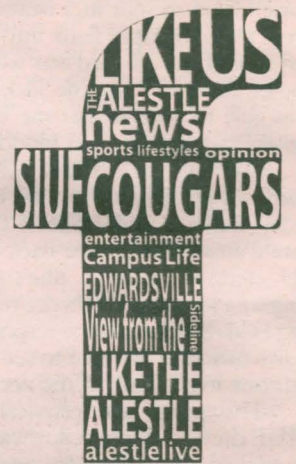
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